

Enhancing laboratory capacities in the Caribbean for better animal health regional surveillance

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Training Workshop - Molecular diagnostic of Influenza A H1N1, Guadeloupe, Feb. 2012



Training Workshop - participants in a BSL 2+ laboratory, Feb. 2012

INTRODUCTION

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories: essential component of efficient Veterinary Services

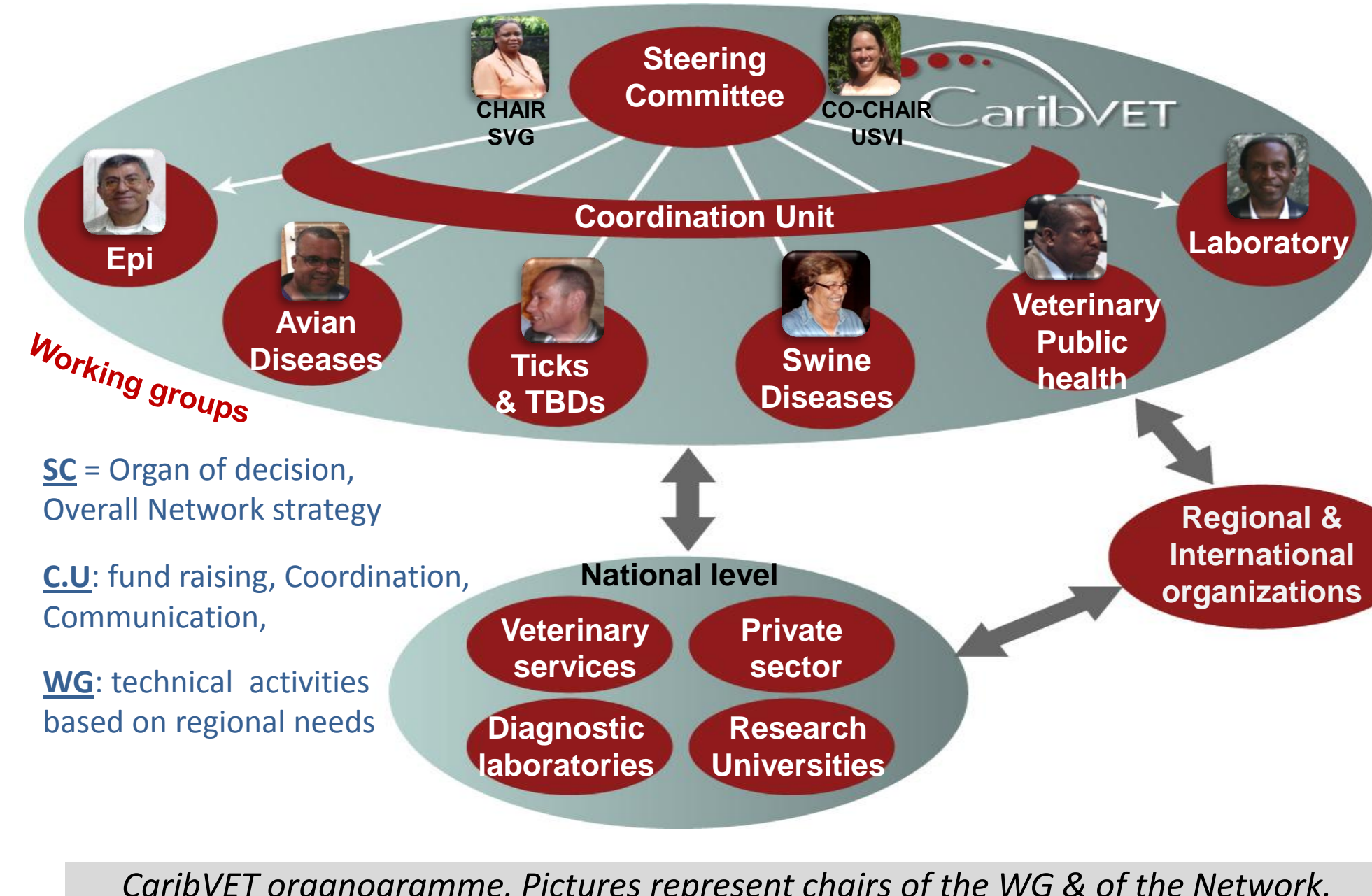
- Need reliable data to support decision: control, eradication, surveillance

CaribVET, the Caribbean Animal Health Network

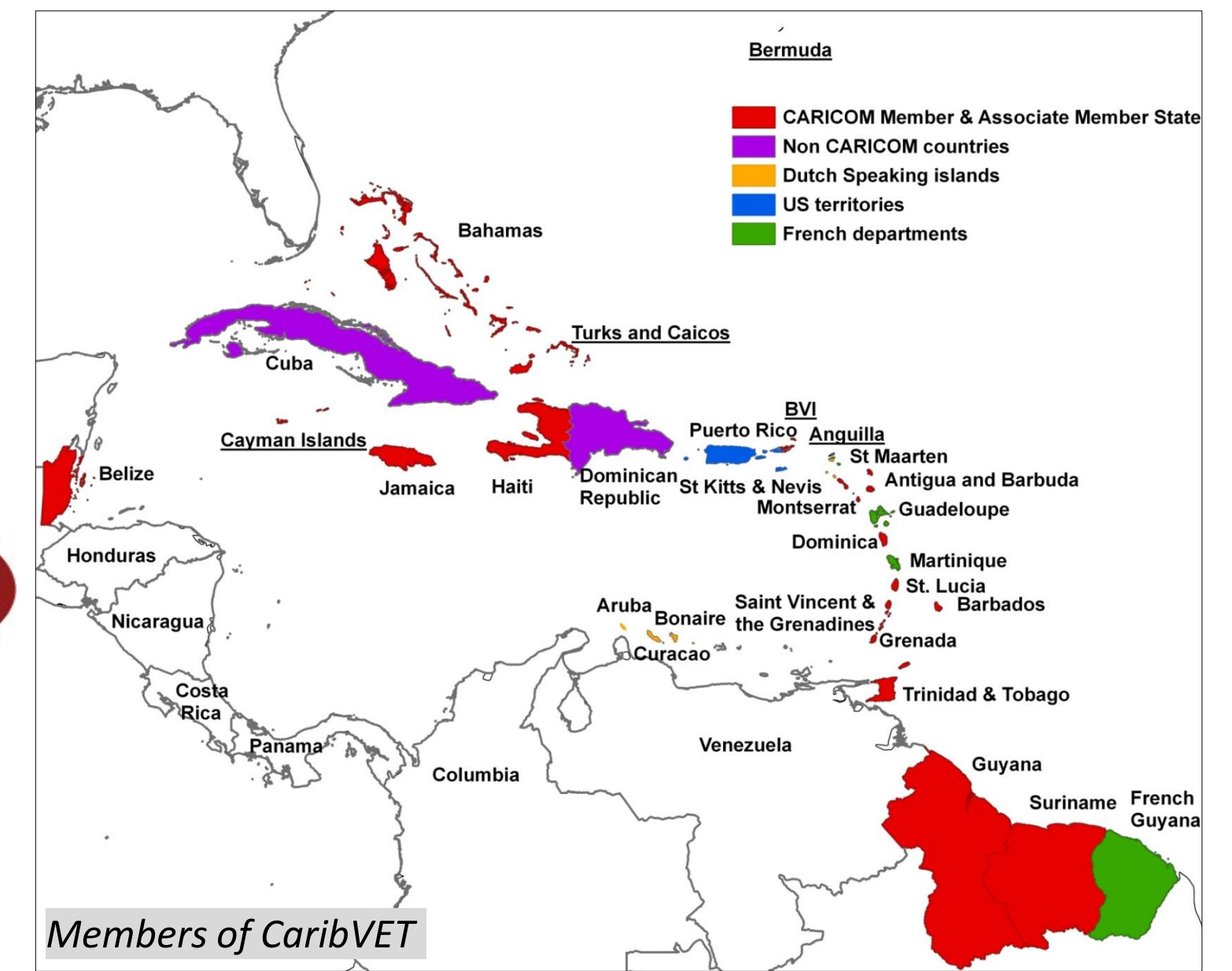
- Collaborative Network: **Veterinary Services (CVOs)**, **research institutes**, **universities & regional / international organizations**
- Objectives: to *improve regional animal and public health*

Laboratory, Quality Assurance and Diagnostic Working group (WG)

- **Cross-cutting WG**: created in 2007, formalized in 2011
- **Global objective**: to contribute to the improvement of veterinary diagnostic capacities and to the development of principles of laboratory quality assurance & laboratory management in the Caribbean



CaribVET organogramme. Pictures represent chairs of the WG & of the Network.



Terms of Reference of the CaribVET Laboratory Working Group



1st Meeting, Guadeloupe, 2011

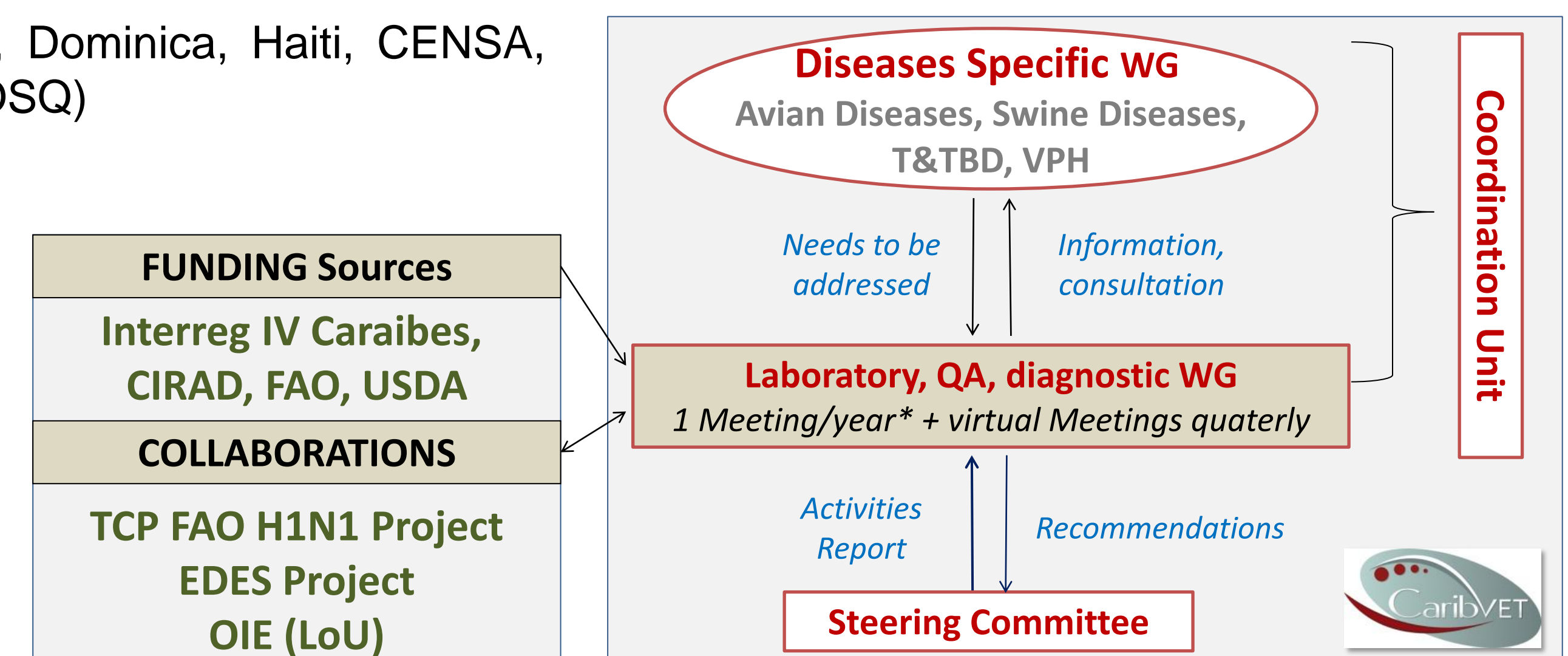
Composition of the Laboratory working group

- **1 chair** (C. Lazarus, FAO) and **15 members**
- Expertise in diagnostic, laboratory activities and willingness to develop laboratory capacities in the region
- Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, Dominica, Haiti, CENSA, CIRAD), and organizations (FAO, USDA, CARICOM, UWI, OIE, CROSQ)

Specific objectives

- Develop **regional network of laboratories**. Promote and strengthen **linkages between laboratories** in the region and with **Reference Laboratories**
- Identify **training needs & opportunities for laboratory staff**
- Develop & regularly update **database of veterinary laboratory expertise and capabilities & capacities** in the region
- Promote the implementation of **quality assurance systems & laboratory management programmes**
- Promote the harmonizing of diagnostic protocols within the region
- Assist in organizing **inter-laboratory assays**

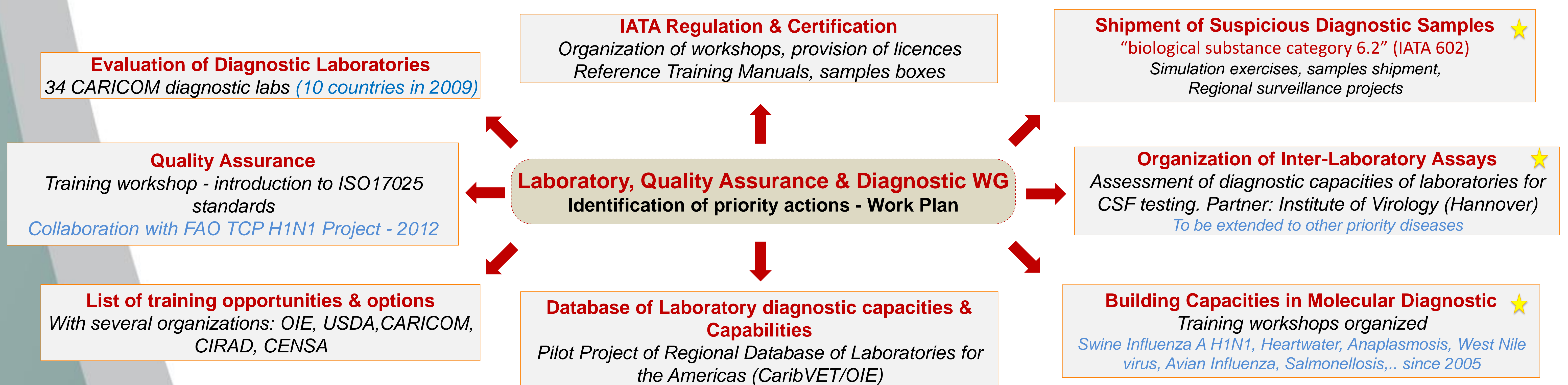
Functioning of the working group



* Last Meeting: jointly with closure workshop TCP FAO Surveillance H1N1 Project (September 2012, Guyana). More information: <http://www.caribvet.net>

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED / ACHIEVEMENTS

Preliminary assessment of the status of the laboratories: from those needing significant upgrade in diagnostic methods and accreditation in terms of equipment, procedures, management and bio-security.



★ Work conducted with the Swine Diseases and the Avian Diseases WGs

CONCLUSIONS

- **Work plan for 2012-2013** validated by the SC of CaribVET
- **Synergistic collaborations** with partner organizations of CaribVET
- Strong collaboration with **other CaribVET WGs** & with the **Coordination Unit**
- **relevancy, follow-up & coordination of the activities.**

PERSPECTIVES

- Finalization of the **Database of laboratories** for the Americas
- **Extend Inter-laboratory Assays to Caribbean priority diseases**
- Assess the impact of training received and appropriate plan trainings
- **Development of the Laboratory section of the CaribVET website**

CARICOM: Caribbean Community
CENSA: Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria.
CROSQ: CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality
QA: Quality Assurance
TCP: Technical Cooperation Programme
USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
UWI: University of the West Indies
WG: Working Group

